

News Release

Three Degrees Added to Online Offerings at the U of M Crookston; Information Technology Management, Health Management, and Communication make a total of 10 online degrees

By Itollefs on Tuesday, July 5, 2011

Students interested in earning a degree online have three additional degrees to choose from at the University of Minnesota, Crookston. The U of M Board of Regents approved the online delivery of Information Technology Management and Health Management degree programs during the May 2011 meeting and an online Communication degree was approved during the Board's June meeting held last week.

This has in effect grown the online offerings at the University of Minnesota, Crookston to 10 degree programs in addition to three certificate programs.

The new online degrees join the existing degree programs in accounting, applied health, applied studies, business management, marketing, manufacturing management, and quality management.



Adel Ali, Ph.D., head of the Math, Science, and Technology Department is confident that the online delivery of the degree in information technology management will both enhance and strengthen what his department has to offer. "For students interested in the field of information technology, this is a great opportunity to complete a degree in an online environment," Ali says. "Our faculty will engage students online just as they do in the classroom by allowing them to explore some of the latest technologies while giving them the chance to interact with other students who share a similar passion for computer technology."

The Information Technology Management (ITM) degree is designed for students interested in working as an information technology specialist, application developer, network administrator or webmaster. Graduates are prepared to work integrating new and advanced computer technology into an organization's infrastructure and managing daily operations. Working on technology-based projects also helps students gain valuable work experience.

The Health Management degree offers students interested in healthcare the opportunity to earn a degree or further their professional career. It prepares graduates for management positions in hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, human service organizations, government, and other health related organizations. The Health Management program meets the requirements and is approved by the state of Minnesota's Board of Examiner's for long-term care administration licensure. Upon completion of the B.S. degree, graduates are qualified to write the state and national Long-Term Care Administrator Licensure Examination.

Ali believes that students who seek the new online Health Management degree will find it greatly beneficial to their careers if they would combine that with the currently available online certificate for Health Informatics' Privacy and Security for Health Care Providers. Similarly, the currently online offered certificate of Health Informatics for Software Engineers and Information Technology Professionals will be a great complement to the ITM degree. "The number of jobs available in health information technology is growing very fast now," Ali says, "And all indicators point to an even faster rate in the future to keep up with the computerization of medical records."

For those interested in the Communication degree, the Crookston campus can prepare students for a career in advertising, public relations, corporate communications, or as an editor, event planner, public affairs officer, political campaign leader or speech writer. Students can earn a degree with a concentration in an area of interest and one that will fit their career goals. Skills learned in communication will transfer to business, government, and public service.

Jack Geller, professor and head of the Liberal Arts and Education Department likes what the online degree in communication means for students. "Offering communication online will allow students to develop their writing, presentation and interpersonal skills and help them effectively translate those skills to the workplace," Geller says. "It augments the opportunities in the Liberal Arts and Education Department for students, and our faculty members are excited to engage students in the study of communication online as well as in the classroom."

The University of Minnesota, Crookston is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and is a member of the North Central Association (NCA). For more information about the online degrees, visit www.umcrookston.edu/online or call 218-281-8680 (cronline@umn.edu). Today the University of Minnesota, Crookston delivers 29 bachelor's degree programs, 18 minors, and more than 40 concentrations, including several online degrees, in the areas of agriculture and natural resources; business; liberal arts and education; and math, science and technology. With an enrollment of about 1,400 undergraduates from more than 25 countries and 40 states, the Crookston campus offers a supportive, close-knit atmosphere that leads to a prestigious University of Minnesota degree. "Small Campus. Big Degree." To learn more, visit www.umcrookston.edu.

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